

Message Text

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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O 011010Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2414

S E C R E T MOSCOW 12291

NODIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: ASEC, UR

SUBJECT: TECHNICAL PENETRATION: PROTEST

REF: (A) MOSCOW 12193, (B) STATE 136975

1. MAY 31 MEETING WITH FIRYUBIN BEGAN WITH CHARGE'S READING EMBASSY NOTE DRAWN FROM STATE 136975. (DEPARTMENT'S TEXT WAS USED WITHOUT ALTERATION.) CHARGE THEN SHOWED FIRYUBIN PHOTOGRAPHS OF TUNNEL AND CONTENTS OF CHIMNEY AS WELL AS COPIES OF OFFICIAL SOVIET PLANS OF CHANCERY INDICATING THAT CHIMNEY IS ON EMBASSY TERRITORY AND WAS NOT CONNECTED TO ADJACENT SOVIET BUILDING, AND THAT AT LEAST SEVEN METERS OF TUNNEL USED IS ON EMBASSY PROPERTY. CHARGE CONCLUDED INITIAL PRESENTATION WITH ORAL COMMENT PER PARAGRAPH 3 OF STATE 136975.

2. FIRYUBIN RESPONDED THAT HE WAS NOT INTERESTED IN EMBASSY'S PHOTOGRAPHS, AND THAT, AS HE HAD POINTED OUT ON MAY 28, ESSENTIAL PROBLEM WAS EMBASSY'S IMPROPER DESTRUCTION OF STRUCTURE WHICH WAS NOT PART OF EMBASSY PROPERTY. HE THEN LAUNCHED INTO LENGTHY ARGUMENT THAT PLANS HE HAD - INDICATING THAT THE CHIMNEY WAS NOT PART OF THE EMBASSY'S PROPERTY - WERE COPIES OF THOSE ATTACHED THE ORIGINAL LEASE AT TIME BUILDING WAS TURNED OVER TO
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EMBASSY, AND HIS PLANS HAD OVERRIDING VALIDITY BECAUSE THEY WERE FLOOR PLANS AS OPPOSED TO EMBASSY'S "GROUND" PLANS.

3. CHARGE RESPONDED WITH TALKING POINTS PROVIDED IN PARA 4, STATE 136975, INCLUDING CHARACTERIZATION OF SOVIET DEMARCHE AS ABSURD. FIRYUBIN RESPONDED IN EMOTIONAL TERMS

THAT HE WAS PERSONALLY INSULTED AT THIS CHARACTERIZATION OF ORAL STATEMENTS HE HAD DELIVERED. HE THEN ATTEMPTED TO DEFLECT FOCUS OF MEETING AWAY FROM SUBSTANCE OF EMBASSY NOTE, TO DISCUSSION OF ETIQUETTE OF DIPLOMATIC DISCOURSE. AFTER EXHAUSTING THIS PLOY, FIRYUBIN RESUMED THE DEFENSIVE POSITION HE HAD ATTEMPTED TO ESTABLISH IN HIS ORAL STATEMENT OF MAY 28: THE EMBASSY VIOLATED ARTICLE 13 OF THE LEASE AGREEMENT BY DESTROYING THE WALL OF THE VENTILATION PIPE.

4. FIRYUBIN ADDED THAT WHAT MAY HAVE BEEN IN THE CHIMNEY WAS NONE OF THE EMBASSY'S BUSINESS, AND THAT THE "TUNNEL" WAS REALLY A FLUE (DYMOKHOD), AN ENGINEERING FEATURE COMMON TO ALL SUCH SMOKE-STACKS. THE FACT THAT THE FLUE RAN UNDER EMBASSY PROPERTY WAS INSIGNIFICANT - AFTER ALL, HE SAID, THE MOSCOW METRO RUNS UNDER MANY FOREIGN EMBASSIES.

5. MEETING ENDED WITH CHARGE REITERATING USG POSITION AND PROTEST AS ELABORATED IN THE EMBASSY'S NOTE, AND WITH FIRYUBIN STUBBORNLY ASSERTING THAT NOTE INCORRECTLY INTERPRETED FACTS, WHICH SIMPLY WERE THAT EMBASSY ILLEGALLY DESTROYED STRUCTURE NOT CONNECTED WITH EMBASSY BUILDING. CHARGE NOTED THAT WHILE THE MFA MAY HAVE BEEN PROVIDED WITH INCORRECT INFORMATION ABOUT THE MATTER UNDER DISCUSSION, THE EFFECT OF THE MFA'S PERSISTING IN FALSE ASSERTIONS COULD ONLY EXACERBATE A PROBLEM WHICH THE
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USG ALREADY VIEWED AS EXTREMELY SERIOUS. MATLOCK.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SURVEILLANCE, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, DIPLOMATIC PROTESTS, EMBASSIES, CAT-B
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MOSCOW12291
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: P890106-0959
Format: TEL
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197806107/aaaadohv.tel
Line Count: 95
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 3ed5417d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: 78 MOSCOW 12193, 78 STATE 136975
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2161827
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TECHNICAL PENETRATION: PROTEST
TAGS: PINS, ASEC, UR, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/3ed5417d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014